

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims to read as follows:

Listing of Claims

1-24. (Canceled).

25. (New) A method for managing up to a pre-defined number of parallel hybrid ARQ (HARQ) processes involving packet combining used in a wireless communication system comprising the steps of:

reserving at least one HARQ process out of the predefined number of parallel HARQ processes; and

restricting the use of the reserved at least on HARQ process for one of a separate data flow identifier and a logical channel identifier.

26. (New) The method according to claim 25, wherein the use of the reserved at least on HARQ process is restricted to one of a data flow and a logical channel carrying signaling data of radio resource control or other higher layer signaling.

27. (New) A transmission apparatus for managing up to a pre-defined number of parallel hybrid ARQ (HARQ) processes involving packet combining used in a wireless communication system comprising the steps of:

a reservation section that reserves at least one HARQ process out of the predefined number of parallel HARQ processes; and

a restriction section that restricts the use of the reserved at least on HARQ process for one of a separate data flow identifier and a logical channel identifier.

28. The apparatus according to claim 27, wherein the use of the reserved at least on HARQ process is restricted to one of a data flow and a logical channel carrying signaling data of radio resource control or other higher layer signaling.